

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

No. 1592

Washington, D. C.

July 14, 1956

Bill to Extend Hale Amendment to All FDA Regulations

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on July 5 favorably reported a bill, H. R. 9547, designed to simplify the formal procedures for establishing and amending regulations under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. This bill in effect would extend the revised procedures relating to food standards provided for in the 1954 Hale amendment to all regulations issued pursuant to the Act.

The Hale amendment procedure dispenses with the requirement of formal hearings where proposed regulations or amendments are noncontroversial. Under this system, actions to amend or repeal regulations may be initiated by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare or be requested by petition of any interested person. The proposal is then

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Canned Food Pack Statistics Bulletin Mailed

The annual N.C.A. bulletin of *Canned Food Pack Statistics*, including details of the 1955 packs of canned fruit and vegetable products, has been mailed to the industry.

The bulletin includes statistics on the 1955 packs of 34 canned fruits and 27 canned vegetables, with comparisons with previous packs. For a number of items the bulletin gives the industry's total production by container size and principal states where packed, for 1955 and the four preceding seasons.

These data have been published again in one bulletin, entitled *Canned Food Pack Statistics, 1955*.

The information is compiled from data furnished by individual canners, members and non-members, and is useful as historical reference to canners, allied industries, and government agencies.

Additional copies may be obtained upon request to the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

House Agriculture Committee Approves Legislation Authorizing Marketing Orders on Cranberries

The House Committee on Agriculture voted on July 10 to report the bill, H. R. 8384, which would add cranberries for canning to the list of commodities for which marketing orders may be issued.

A companion bill, S. 2933, is pending before the Senate Committee on Agriculture. It is expected that the Senate committee will act favorably on the legislation if it is passed by the House.

General Crop Conditions

Production of deciduous fruits in 1956 is expected to total about 5 percent below the output in 1955 and the average for 1949-54, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

Much of the decline from last year is attributed to a 16 percent smaller apple crop and an 8 percent smaller grape crop. In addition, decreases of about one-third are expected for sweet cherries, sour cherries, and apricots.

Offsetting these declines are the following increases: peaches, about a fourth larger than last year; prunes, up 22 percent; plums, up 11 percent; and pears, up 3 percent.

USDA reports the planted acreage of vegetables for commercial processing as of July 1 as still 9 percent larger than last year, although slightly below average. The forecast is for larger output of green lima beans, snap beans, green peas, beets, contracted kraut cabbage, sweet corn, and tomatoes, but smaller crops of early spring spinach and cucumbers for pickles.

The production of summer vegetables and melons this year is expected to be about 10 percent below last year's output.

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Crop	1955		1956 Indi- cated	Per- cent change from 1955
	(tons)	(tons)		
Snap beans.....	309,980	322,010		+ 4
Green peas.....	455,910	518,890		+14
Spinach (winter and spring).....	93,800	105,400		+12
	(planted acreage)			
Green lima beans.....	105,320	108,430		+ 3
Beets for canning.....	18,540	21,880		+18
Cabbage for kraut (con- tract).....	7,680	9,890		+29
Sweet corn.....	407,850	470,800		+18
Cucumbers for pickles.....	134,220	124,470		- 7
Tomatoes.....	323,720	360,650		+11

Drosophila Control

The second of two reports on *Drosophila* control, prepared by the Special N.C.A. Committee on Tomato Products Sanitation and its entomological advisors, will be mailed next week to all tomato canners.

This second report deals with *Drosophila* control after harvest in the field, at receiving stations, and at the canning plant. It is to be mailed July 16. Included in the mailing will be copies of the first report, containing recommendations to growers and canners, which was distributed initially in March.

Additional copies of the reports on *Drosophila* control are available upon request to the N.C.A. Raw Products Research Bureau.

Text of Proposed FDA Standards for Canned Figs

Notice is given in the *Federal Register* of July 10 that the Food and Drug Administration proposes to adopt a definition and standard of identity for canned figs.

Following is the text of the notice:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Food and Drug Administration
(21 CFR Part 27)

CANNED FRUITS AND CANNED FRUIT JUICES; DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS OF IDENTITY; QUALITY; AND FILL OF CONTAINER

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A DEFINITION AND STANDARD OF IDENTITY FOR CANNED FIGS

In the matter of adopting a definition and standard of identity for canned figs:

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed by the National Cannery Association, 1133 Twentieth Street N.W., Washington 6, D. C., proposing the adoption of a definition and standard of identity for canned figs. Pursuant to the authority of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 401, 52 Stat. 1046, as amended by 68 Stat. 54; 21 U. S. C. 341), and in accordance with the authority delegated to him by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (20 F. R. 1996), the Commissioner of Food and Drugs invites all interested persons to submit their views in writing regarding the proposal of the above-named petitioner as published in this notice. Views and comments should be submitted in quintuplicate, addressed to the Hearing Clerk, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Room 5440, Health, Education, and Welfare Building, Washington 25, D. C., and should be posted prior to the thirtieth day following the date of publication of this notice in the *Federal Register*.

The proposal of the petitioner is as follows:

It is proposed that Part 27 be amended by adding the following new section:

§ 27.— *Canned figs; definition and standard of identity; label statement of optional ingredients.* (a) Canned figs is the food prepared from one of the optional fig ingredients specified in paragraph (b) of this section and one of the optional packing media specified in paragraph (c) of this section, to which citric acid or lemon juice or concentrated lemon juice is added, if necessary, in such quantity as to reduce the pH of the finished product to 4.9 or below. One or more of the following optional ingredients may be added to flavor, garnish, or season the canned figs:

- (1) Spice.
 - (2) Flavoring, other than artificial flavoring.
 - (3) A vinegar.
 - (4) Unpeeled segments of citrus fruits.
 - (5) Salt.
- Such food is sealed in a container and so processed by heat as to prevent spoilage.

(b) The optional fig ingredients referred to in paragraph (a) of this section are prepared from mature figs of the light or dark varieties. Figs (or whole figs), split figs (or broken figs), or any combination thereof are optional fig ingredients. A fig (whole fig) is one that is whole or only slightly cracked and retains its natural conformation without exposing the interior. A split fig (or broken fig) is one that is open to such an extent that the seed cavity is exposed, the shape of the fruit may be distorted, and the fruit may or may not be broken apart into entirely separate pieces.

(c) (1) The optional packing media referred to in paragraph (a) of this section are:

- (i) Water.
- (ii) Light sirup.
- (iii) Heavy sirup.
- (iv) Extra heavy sirup.

(2) Each of the packing media in subparagraph (1) (ii) through (iv) of this paragraph, inclusive, is prepared with a liquid ingredient and a saccharine ingredient. Water is the liquid ingredient from which packing media in subparagraph (1) (ii) to (iv) of this paragraph, inclusive, are prepared. The saccharine ingredient from which packing media in subparagraph (1) (ii) through (iv) of this paragraph, inclusive, are prepared is one of the following: Sugar; any combination of sugar and dextrose in which the weight of the solids of the dextrose used is not more than one-half the weight of the solids of the sugar used; any combination of sugar and corn sirup or glucose sirup in which the weight of the solids of the corn sirup or glucose sirup used is not more than one-third the weight of the solids of the sugar used; or any combination of sugar, dextrose, and corn sirup or glucose sirup in which twice the weight of the solids of the dextrose used added to three times the weight of the solids of the corn sirup or glucose sirup used is not more than the weight of the solids of the sugar used.

(3) The respective densities of packing media in subparagraph (1) (ii) to (iv), of this paragraph, inclusive, as measured on the Brix hydrometer 15 days or more after the figs are canned, are within the range prescribed for each of the following list:

Name of packing medium:	Brix measurement
Light sirup	18° or more but less than 21°.
Heavy sirup	21° or more but less than 26°.
Extra heavy sirup	26° or more but less than 35°.

(d) For the purposes of this section:

(1) The term "sugar" means refined sucrose or invert sugar sirup. The term "invert sugar sirup" means an aqueous solution of inverted or partly inverted, refined or partly refined sucrose, the solids of which contain not more than 0.3 percent by weight by ash, and which is colorless, odorless, and flavorless, except for sweetness.

(2) The term "dextrose" means the hydrated or anhydrous, refined monosaccharide obtained from hydrolyzed starch.

(3) The term "corn sirup" means a clarified, concentrated aqueous solution of the products obtained by the incomplete hydrolysis of cornstarch, and includes dried corn sirup. The solids of corn sirup and of dried corn sirup contain not less than 40 percent by weight of reducing sugars calculated as anhydrous dextrose.

(4) The term "glucose sirup" means a clarified, concentrated aqueous solution of the products obtained by the incomplete hydrolysis of any edible starch. The solids of glucose sirup contain not less than 40 percent by weight of reducing sugars calculated as anhydrous dextrose. "Dried glucose sirup" means the product obtained by drying "glucose sirup."

(e) The label shall name the optional fig ingredient used, as specified in paragraph (b) of this section (where combinations of figs and split figs are used, the ingredient present in largest proportion by weight shall be named first), and the name whereby the optional packing medium is designated in paragraph (c) of this section, preceded by "in" or "Packed in." When any of the optional ingredients permitted by one of the following specified subparagraphs of paragraph (a) of this section is used the label shall bear the words set forth, after the number of such subparagraph:

(a) (1) "Spiced" or "Spice added" or "With added spice," or, in lieu of the word "spice," the common name of the spice.

(a) (2) "Flavoring added" or "With added flavoring" or, in lieu of the word "flavoring," the common name of the flavoring.

(a) (3) "Seasoned with vinegar" or "Seasoned with vinegar," the blank being filled in with the name of the vinegar used.

(a) (4) "With added," the blank being filled in with the name or names of the citrus segment or segments used.

(a) (5) "Seasoned with salt" or "Salt added."

When the addition of lemon juice (including concentrated lemon juice) or

citric acid lowers the pH of the canned figs to less than 4.3, the label shall bear the statement "With added lemon juice" or "With added concentrated lemon juice" (if such is used) or "With added citric acid." When two or more of the optional ingredients specified in paragraph (a) of this section are used, such words may be combined, as for example, "With added spices, orange slices, and lemon juice."

(f) Wherever the name of the food appears on the label so conspicuously as to be easily seen under customary conditions of purchase, the words herein specified, showing the optional ingredients used, shall immediately and conspicuously precede or follow such name without intervening written, printed, or graphic matter, except that the varietal name of the figs may so intervene.

Dated: July 3, 1956.

[SEAL] GEO. P. LARRICK,
Commissioner of Food
and Drugs.

[F. R. Doc. 56-5428; Filed, July 9, 1956;
8:48 a.m.]

General Crop Conditions

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pected to be slightly smaller than that of 1955, with reduced acreage the largest factor in the decline. Vegetable crops generally prospered during June, but harvest of early summer crops in some areas has been held back by delayed growth and may overlap more than usual with that of later marketings.

The 1955-56 crop of oranges is estimated at 1 percent larger than that of 1954-55 and grapefruit is up 8 percent. The pack of canned single-strength citrus juices in Florida to June 2 has been reported at approximately 32.6 million cases (24/2), 2 percent more than a year earlier.

The 1955-56 output of canned orange juice was over 15.2 million cases, down 7 percent, while the pack of grapefruit juice was 11.9 million cases, up 14 percent. The pack of 4.9 million cases of blended orange and grapefruit juice was up 3 percent. About 556,000 cases of tangerine juice were canned in 1955-56, up 30 percent.

The Florida pack of frozen orange concentrate to June 2 was reported at about 63.4 million gallons, 3 percent larger than a year earlier. The pack of frozen concentrated grapefruit juice was nearly 2.5 million gallons, a little more than twice the volume of a year earlier. The pack of frozen

concentrated blended juice was up 60 percent. In contrast, the pack of frozen concentrated tangerine juice was down 30 percent.

Prospects are reported favorable in nearly all areas for the 1956-57 citrus crops.

Snap Beans for Processing

The 1956 indicated production of snap beans for processing is 322,010 tons, on the basis of conditions July 1, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This compares with 309,980 tons obtained in 1955 and the 1945-54 average production of 248,700 tons.

The preliminary estimate of acreage for harvest is 140,750 acres. This compares with 138,690 acres harvested in 1955 and the 10-year average of 124,750 acres. In arriving at the estimate for acreage for harvest in 1956, allowance was made for abandoned or unharvested acreage in line with the average loss for recent years.

The U. S. average yield is indicated at 2.29 tons per acre as of July 1. This compares with 2.24 tons obtained in 1955 and an average of 2.00 tons for the 1945-54 period.

	10-year ave. 1945-54	1955	1956 Indi- cated	Per- cent change from 1955
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	1955
Maine.....	6,000	4,800	4,200	-12
N. Y.....	42,900	44,400	57,800	+30
Pa.....	8,200	9,000	8,300	-8
Mich.....	9,500	6,900	12,200	+77
Wis.....	18,100	19,600	28,500	+45
Mo.....	800			
Del.....	2,600	4,100	4,500	+10
Md.....	16,800	14,700	17,800	+21
Va.....	5,200	7,500	5,600	-25
N. C.....	3,200	4,000	2,600	-35
S. C.....	1,700	800	700	-12
Ga.....	800			
Fla.....	16,100	20,400	16,000	-22
Tenn.....	8,200	11,600	8,200	-29
Miss.....	1,700	1,700	600	-65
Ark.....	9,100	5,200	4,000	-23
La.....	1,100	400	400	
Okl.....	3,500	2,700	3,900	+44
Texas.....	10,400	14,300	15,000	+5
Colo.....	4,600	5,600	5,300	-5
Utah.....	2,000	3,700	2,500	-32
Wash.....	9,300	8,000	9,200	+15
Ore.....	46,800	81,900	80,600	-2
Calif.....	10,900	26,800	21,700	-19
Other states ¹ ...	9,300	11,700	12,410	+5
U. S. Total.....	248,700	309,980	322,010	+4

¹Sum of estimates by seasonal groups. ²Ala., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Ky., Minn., Nebr., N. H., N. J., N. M., Ohio, Vt., and Wyo.

Green Peas for Processing

The 1956 prospective production of green peas for processing is estimated on the basis of July 1 conditions at 518,890 tons, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This indicated production is 2 percent less than that estimated from June 15 conditions, but is 14 percent above 1955 and 18 percent above average.

For the country as a whole, both acreage and prospective yield per acre are above both last year and average. Prospective average yields in all of the Central and Eastern states, except Virginia, are below last year, while for all the Western states, except Colorado, they are substantially above.

State	10-year ave. 1945-54	1955	1956 Indi- cated	Per- cent change from 1955
	(tons—shelled)			1955
Maine.....	6,020	8,850	7,320	-17
N. Y.....	34,580	19,530	16,980	-13
Pa.....	16,850	14,930	13,600	-9
Ohio.....	2,610	1,690	1,330	-21
Ind.....	3,540	2,830	2,300	-19
Ill.....	25,110	40,600	32,120	-21
Mich.....	5,360	5,610	5,510	-2
Wis.....	132,520	129,760	116,550	-10
Minn.....	44,380	61,380	54,900	-11
Iowa.....	3,700	4,560	2,620	-43
Del.....	2,380	5,250	7,500	+43
Md.....	10,200	12,920	10,500	-19
Va.....	1,730	2,010	2,520	+25
Idaho.....	9,780	14,100	19,200	+36
Colo.....	3,230	800	1,870	+133
Utah.....	14,140	9,770	9,240	-5
Wash.....	64,720	62,130	106,400	+71
Ore.....	50,820	38,640	78,000	+102
Calif.....	8,560	14,110	21,980	+56
Other states ¹ ...	9,170	6,450	8,450	+31
U. S. Total.....	439,410	455,910	518,890	+14

¹Ark., Kans., Mo., Mont., Nebr., N. J., Okla., Tenn., W. Va., and Wyo.

Cabbage for Kraut

The 1956 contract acreage of cabbage for sauerkraut is 9,890 acres, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This is 29 percent more than the 7,680 acres under contract to kraut packers last year but about the same average of 9,940 acres under contract during the 1945-54 period. These estimates include acreage grown by packers on their own or leased land as well as acreage contracted with growers on either an acreage or tonnage basis.

In 1955 the equivalent of 5,840 acres or about 43 percent of the total planted acreage was purchased on the open market. For the preceding 10 years, the average was 8,420 acres or about 46 percent of the total.

Tomatoes for Processing

The preliminary estimate of planted acreage of tomatoes for processing in 1956 is 360,650 acres, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This is 11 percent more than the 323,720 acres planted in 1955 but 13 percent less than the 1945-54 average planting of 412,840 acres.

If abandonment of planted acreage in 1956 is equal to the 10-year average loss of 3 percent, the 1956 harvested acreage would be about 350,000 acres. This compares with 318,920 acres harvested in 1955 and the 1945-54 average of 400,220 acres.

State	10-year ave. 1945-54 (acres)	1955 (acres)	1956 ¹ Per- cent change from 1955
N. Y.	21,800	14,000	14,000 + 4
N. J.	32,140	25,400	24,900 - 2
Pa.	26,680	22,500	22,500
Ohio	24,370	16,000	19,200 +20
Ind.	55,250	32,300	30,000 +11
Ill.	11,760	9,600	10,200 + 6
Mich.	7,690	6,600	7,300 +11
Wis.	1,390	1,000	1,100 +10
Iowa	1,990	1,400	2,100 +50
Mo.	6,640	1,600	1,800 - 6
Del.	6,030	6,600	7,000 + 6
Md.	31,400	15,200	14,000 - 8
Va.	20,610	13,500	14,200 + 5
S. C.	1,730	1,200	1,400 +17
Fla.	4,700	8,400	8,000 - 5
Ky.	2,550	1,300	1,200 - 8
Tenn.	2,980	600	500 -17
Ark.	9,470	3,000	3,000
Okla.	1,540	200	200
Texas	21,080	15,000	10,000 -33
Colo.	4,060	3,400	3,900 +15
Utah	7,170	6,900	6,100 -10
Calif.	106,040	116,300	150,000 +29
Other states ² ...	3,770	1,820	1,750 - 4
U. S. Total.....	412,840	323,720	360,650 +11

¹ Ala., Ariz., Conn., Idaho, Kans., La., Minn., Miss., Nebr., N. M., N. C., Ore., Wash., and W. Va.

Lima Beans for Processing

The 1956 planted acreage of green lima beans for processing is 108,430 acres, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This is 3 percent more than the 1955 planted acreage of 105,320 acres and 9 percent above the 1945-54 average plantings of 99,120 acres.

These estimates relate to planted acreage. The 10-year average loss of planted acreage is 5 percent.

Of the total plantings, 36,740 acres were for canning, down 4 percent from last year; and 71,690 acres were for freezing, 7 percent more than last year.

State	10-year ave. 1945-54 (acres)	1955 (acres)	1956 Per- cent change from 1955
N. Y.	3,030	4,600	3,000 -35
Pa.	4,760	4,800	4,600 - 4
Ohio	960	730	650 -11
Mich.	3,030	1,500	1,700 +13
Wis.	6,420	7,500	6,900 - 8
Del.	19,430	23,400	23,500
Md.	4,820	3,900	3,400 -13
Va.	4,400	2,800	3,400 +21
Wash.	1,490	1,120	900 -20
Calif.	19,600	23,500	30,100 +28
Other states ² ...	31,130	31,470	30,280 - 4
U. S. Total.....	90,120	105,320	108,430 + 3
For canning and other processing....	42,230	38,140	36,740 - 4
For freezing....	67,890	67,180	71,690 + 7

¹ Ark., Colo., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Minn., Mo., N. J., Okla., Ore., Tenn., and Utah.
² Three-year ave., 1952-54; estimates not available prior to 1952.

Beets for Canning

Reports received by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA from beet canners indicate a planted acreage of 21,880 acre, 18 percent more than the 1955 planting of 18,540 acres and 28 percent above the 1945-54 average plantings of 17,090 acres.

These estimates relate to planted acreage. Average loss or abandonment of plantings is about 6 percent.

State	10-year ave. 1945-54 (acres)	1955 (acres)	1956 Per- cent change from 1955
N. Y.	4,120	5,300	6,600 +25
Mich.	1,070	700	700
Wis.	6,900	7,700	800 +14
Ore.	1,630	1,600	1,700 + 6
Other states ¹ ...	3,370	3,240	4,080 +26
U. S. Total.....	17,090	18,540	21,880 +18

¹ Calif., Colo., Ill., Ind., La., Maine, Md., Minn., N. J., Ohio, Pa., Tenn., Texas, Utah, and Wash.

Deciduous Fruit Production

Prospects for production of deciduous fruits in 1956 are reported by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA, on the basis of July 1 conditions, as follows:

APPLES

The 1956 commercial apple crop is estimated at 89,263,000 bushels, about 16 percent below the 1955 production and also 16 percent below average.

The Eastern states, with 38.2 million bushels, account for about 43 percent of the total compared with 46

percent last year. Except for Virginia and North Carolina, each of the Eastern states is expected to have a smaller crop than last year, with the total for the area down 22 percent from 1955.

Production for the Western states is estimated at 30.7 million bushels or only 34 percent of the total compared with 39 percent last year. Washington, with a crop estimated at 17.1 million bushels or only two-thirds as large as in 1955, accounts for most of the decline in this area. The crop in California also is down, being about 15 percent smaller than last year.

In the Central states, prospects are generally good, with the crop estimated at 20.4 million bushels, about one-third larger than in 1955.

Heavy June drops are reported in both New York and Pennsylvania, except for Rome apples in the Berks-Lehigh section. The set in northern Virginia was light.

The Washington crop made good growth during June but the prospect still is poor as a result of freeze damage as well as poor pollination. The Oregon prospects improved during June but the crop still shows the effects of the winter freeze.

PEACHES

The 1956 peach crop is forecast at 64,412,000 bushels, 24 percent larger than last year and 4 percent larger than the 1954 crop. Most of the increase over last year is accounted for by a fair-sized crop in the Southern states, where the crop in 1955 was a failure. Production outside of this area is expected to total 4 percent more than in 1954 and 1955.

The California crop of clingstone peaches is forecast at 24,377,000 bushels, 8 percent more than was harvested last year and only slightly below the record 1951 crop of 24,544,000 bushels. The California freestone crop is expected to approximate 11,126,000 bushels, 3 percent below last year.

The crops in New York and Pennsylvania are expected to be about one-fifth smaller than last year. The Washington and Oregon crop also is forecast about a fifth smaller than in 1955. Michigan prospects are for a crop somewhat larger than the two previous years.

PEARS

The pear crop is forecast at 30,377,000 bushels, 3 percent above last year.

The Bartlett crop in the Pacific Coast states is indicated at 19,843,000

bushels, 2 percent below 1955 but 4 percent above average. In Washington the Bartlett crop is indicated at 2.9 million bushels, down more than a third from the 1955 production of 4.6 million bushels. The Oregon crop is down 11 percent, from 2.7 million to 2.4 million bushels. The California crop, at 14.5 million bushels, is about 13 percent larger than the 12.9 million bushels obtained last year.

SWEET CHERRIES

The sweet cherry crop is estimated at 72,790 tons, 36 percent smaller than the 1955 crop.

Each of the Western states is below last year except California and Colorado. Of the Great Lakes states, only Michigan has a crop above both last year and above average.

Crop prospects declined during June in California, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York; remained unchanged in Oregon and Michigan; and improved in Utah and Colorado.

SOOR CHERRIES

The sour cherry crop is forecast at 105,090 tons, 30 percent less than last year and 9 percent below the 10-year average. The crop in each of the Great Lakes states is below last year and below average. Production is below 1955 in each of the Western states except in Colorado and Utah. The crop in New York is sizing well.

APRICOTS

The prospective apricot crop in California, Washington and Utah is estimated at 195,200 tons, 31 percent below last year and 9 percent below average.

In California there has been some dropping of immature fruit, and prospects there are about 2 percent less than last month. Production in Utah is estimated at only about one-third of last year.

PLUMS

The indicated production of plums in California and Michigan is 101,500 tons, about 11 percent more than the 91,200 tons produced last year.

Crop	1955	1956 Indi- cated	Per- cent change from 1955
(thousands of bushels)			
Apples.....	106,234	89,263	-16
Peaches.....	51,827	64,412	+24
Pears.....	29,622	30,377	+3
(thousands of tons)			
Sweet cherries.....	113,090	72,790	-36
Sour cherries.....	149,520	105,090	-30
Apricots.....	281,400	195,200	-31
Plums.....	91,200	101,500	+11

Production of Field Crops

Prospects for 1956 production of potatoes, sweet potatoes, durum wheat, dry edible beans, dry peas, and rice are reported by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA, on the basis of July 1 conditions, as follows:

POTATOES

With the July report, USDA initiated a new program on potato statistics in which production is divided into six seasonal groups on the basis of usual time of harvest. The total acreage of potatoes for harvest in all seasonal groups in 1956 is almost as large as in 1955. The 1,401,500 acres this year is about 1 percent below the 1,413,600 acres harvested last year.

The July 1 indicated production for the total of five seasonal groups is 76,997,000 hundredweight, about 2 percent below the 78,663,000 hundredweight obtained last year. This does not include estimates for the fall crop, for which acreage is down slightly.

SWEET POTATOES

Production of sweet potatoes is forecast at 15,684,000 hundredweight, 25 percent below the 1955 crop of 20,946,000 hundredweight and 22 percent below average. Most of the decline in prospective production from 1955 is the result of the smaller acreage for harvest this year. The estimate of 286,000 acres for 1956 is 16 percent below the 341,000 acres in 1955. Based on July 1 conditions, yield is placed at 55 hundredweight per acre compared with 61 hundredweight for the 1955 crop and the 1949-54 average of 53 hundredweight.

All states except Kansas, North Carolina, Georgia, and California are showing smaller acreages than last year. Louisiana, with 75,000 acres in 1956, shows a 26 percent decline from the 101,000 acres harvested in 1955.

Crop	1955	1956 Indi- cated	Per- cent change from 1955
(thousands of cwt.)			
Potatoes.....	78,663	76,997	-2
Sweet potatoes.....	20,946	15,684	-25
(thousands of bushels)			
Durum wheat.....	20,070	30,901	+54
(thousands of bags)			
Dry edible beans.....	16,968	16,074	-5
Dry peas.....	2,525	4,802	+90
Rice.....	53,532	46,815	-14

* Five seasonal groups: winter, early spring, late spring, early summer, and late summer.

Marketing Orders

(Concluded from page 253)

a statement of the fallacies of extending such controls to processing crops and a fact sheet outlining what a marketing order can do.

In its testimony before the House Agriculture Committee on June 5, the Association demonstrated the utter unfairness of the so-called Agricultural Marketing Agreements Act, under which mandatory production and marketing control orders may be issued. Counsel for the Association pointed out that enactment of the bill would authorize producers to control practically all aspects of cannery production and marketing, would authorize programs that could freeze the industry to some historic pattern, force the processors to pay the expenses of the control agency, establish reserve pools, determine surpluses, institute research programs, and regulate in many other ways the processing and sales efforts of canners and freezers. The Association also showed that the law provides no guarantee of canner participation in the development of these programs, in their administration, and that in fact they can be put into effect over the objection of the canners.

FDA Rule-making

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published in the *Federal Register* and all interested persons are afforded an opportunity to present their views to the Secretary either orally or in writing. Thereafter, if the Secretary feels that reasonable grounds for issuing or amending a regulation have been shown, an appropriate order will be issued. If no objection is filed, the order becomes final after 30 days have elapsed. In the event reasonable objections are made, a public hearing would be ordered by the Secretary.

The regulations proposed to be covered by H. R. 9547 include the sections dealing with labeling for special dietary foods (Sec. 403(j)), tolerances for poisonous ingredients for food (Sec. 406(a)), and certification of coal-tar colors for food (Sec. 406(b)).

The N.C.A. was one of the principal proponents of the Hale amendment. At the 1954 Convention the membership voted a resolution endorsing this proposal to simplify the standard-making procedure.

Status of Legislation

Agricultural trade development—H. R. 11708, to increase the authorization under P. L. 480 (83d Congress) from \$1.5 to \$3 billion, was reported by the House Agriculture Committee June 18. A similar bill, S. 3903, was passed by the Senate July 3.

Alaskan fisheries—H. R. 8405, to transfer supervision of Alaskan fish and game from the Interior Department to the Territorial Government, is pending before the House Interior Committee. No action scheduled. N.C.A. Fishery Products Committee recommends opposition.

Anti-merger legislation—A bill, H. R. 9424, which would require prenotification of certain mergers and permit preliminary injunctions to restrain mergers, was passed by the House April 16 and was approved by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly July 7.

Customs simplification—H. R. 6040, to revise the method by which the value of imported merchandise is determined for customs evaluation, was passed by the House June 22, 1955, and was approved by the Senate Finance Committee, with an amendment, July 9.

Farm labor housing—H. R. 9600, to provide for amortization deductions with respect to housing facilities for agricultural workers, is pending before the House Ways and Means Committee. N.C.A. recommends industry support for.

Farm workers transportation—S. 3391, providing for ICC regulation of interstate transportation of migrant agricultural workers, was passed by the Senate May 1 and was the subject of hearings by House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee May 18. N.C.A. recommends industry support for.

FDA chemical additives—Hearings on bills to regulate the use of chemical additives in food were concluded Feb. 14, but House Committee has not considered subject in executive session. N.C.A. supports (see INFORMATION LETTER of Feb. 11, page 125).

FDA codification—H. R. 6991, to revise, codify, and enact into law Title 21 of the U. S. Code entitled "Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics," was passed by the House and is pending before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Revision and Codification.

FDA imitation food—H. R. 3692, to prohibit the interstate marketing of any "imitation" of a standardized food product, even though the imitation product is plainly labeled as such, is pending before the House Interstate Commerce Committee.

FDA rule-making—H. R. 9547, to simplify procedures governing the prescribing of regulations under the Food

and Drug Act, was reported by the House Interstate Commerce Committee July 5 (see story, page 255).

Fisheries education—S. 2379, authorizing federal funds for scientific and vocational fisheries education, was passed by the Senate on May 21. H. R. 10433, a similar bill, was reported, with amendments, by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee June 26. N.C.A. recommends industry support for.

Fisheries policy and program—S. 3275, providing for reorganization of the Fish and Wildlife Service under an Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fisheries and Wildlife, was passed by the Senate May 24 and by the House, with amendments, July 7.

Import quotas—H. R. 8954 and other bills to establish an import quota mechanism are pending before the House Ways and Means Committee.

Marketing orders—cranberries—H. R. 8384, to bring cranberries for canning under the orders provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreements Act, was approved by the House Agriculture Committee July 10. The Senate Agriculture Committee has not acted on S. 2933. N.C.A. opposes (see INFORMATION LETTER of June 9, page 229; also story, page 255).

Marketing orders—potatoes—H. R. 9484 and S. 3262, to establish a national marketing control including potatoes for canning, were introduced Feb. 22. No action scheduled. N.C.A. opposes.

Negotiated procurement—House-passed H. R. 8710 is pending before the Senate Armed Services Committee. No action scheduled. N.C.A. recommends industry support for.

OTC—H. R. 5550, authorizing U. S. participation in OTC, was reported by House Ways and Means Committee, with amendments, April 18.

Poultry inspection—Bills providing compulsory inspection of poultry and poultry products were the subject of

hearings by a Senate Labor Subcommittee May 10 and by a Senate Agriculture Subcommittee June 18-19 and 26.

Robinson-Patman Act—H. R. 1840, providing for a good faith defense, was passed by the House June 11. A similar bill, S. 11, was approved by a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee July 7.

Social security—H. R. 7225, extending benefits under the federal social security program, was passed by the House July 19, 1955, and reported by the Senate Finance Committee, with amendments, June 5.

Statehood—H. R. 2535, to provide statehood for Alaska and Hawaii, was recommitted to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

Trip-leasing—S. 898, to limit the authority of the ICC to regulate the duration of trip leases for carriers of perishable agricultural and fishery products, was passed by the Senate March 28 and was reported by the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, with an amendment, June 27.

Wage-hour coverage—Senate Labor Subcommittee held public hearings May 8-18 on all measures to extend coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Subcommittee chairman transferred from the Labor Committee; no further action scheduled. N.C.A. opposes curtailment of existing seasonal exemptions (see INFORMATION LETTER of May 14, 1955, page 207).

Waste disposal—The House Ways and Means Committee has taken no action on a number of bills to allow the rapid amortization of waste disposal facilities and treatment works. N.C.A. continues to support this legislation.

Water pollution—A conference report on S. 890, to extend and amend the Water Pollution Control Act, was signed by the President July 9 and is P. L. 660. N.C.A. supported this legislation.

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